



GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

March 30, 2011, Meeting
General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709

COMMISSIONERS

ANGELO R. CARDONO
CHAIRMAN

CLINTON SIMMONS
VICE-CHAIRMAN

DENNIS C. LORD
SECRETARY

EVELYN JEROME ALEXANDER
MEMBER

PETER AMUNDSON
MEMBER

GEORGE G. BUTTS
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL
MEMBER

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Vice Chairman Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Harvey Holloway
Commissioner Evelyn Jerome Alexander

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Chairman Angelo R. Cardono
Secretary Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. George Gomez, Staff Assistant, Aviation Division

AMERICAN AIRPORTS - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Chris Brooks, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield

GUESTS

Mr. Jack Kenton, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Tom Lowry, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Clinton Simmons called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Bobby Chase led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. February 23, 2011, Minutes

The approval of the February 23, 2011, minutes was held to the next Los Angeles County Aviation Commission (Commission) meeting, due to lack of quorum.

B. American Airports Corporation - Project Manager Report

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman events:

- **Management and Maintenance:**

- 1) Hangar inspections commenced on March 7, 2011. A total of 87 percent (185) of third-party hangars and 46 percent (123) of the County of Los Angeles (County) hangars have been inspected.
- 2) Recurrent Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation training for airport employees was held on March 9, 2011.
- 3) A new clutch was installed on the airport's John Deere mower, and the alternator was replaced on the operations truck.
- 4) Painting of the tie down numbers on the aprons is complete.
- 5) Two precision approach path indicator lights were replaced.

- **Development and Activities:**

- 1) The Southern California Gas Company is currently replacing gas lines by the airport's entrance roadway. This project is scheduled to be completed within seven days.
- 2) After the last round of rains, airport staff completely cleared dirt, growth, and debris from behind Hangar Row H.
- 3) Mr. Rick Coulter's hangar development project is near completion, and the installation of a new fire hydrant is underway.
- 4) Jet-A fuel sales for 2011 are down three percent, and Avgas sales are down five percent from the same period in 2010.
- 5) Hangar vacancy has remained at nine percent.
- 6) Airport operations are up 1.6 percent over the same period in 2010.

- **Meetings and Events:**

- 1) On February 26, 2011, the Optimist Club of North Hollywood and Kitty Hawk Squadron 3 hosted an Awards Banquet at Rocky's Restaurant at which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

presented the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to Mr. Ralph Truglio for his fifty-plus years of safe flying.

- 2) The Junior Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps from La Crescenta High School visited the airport on March 11, 2011. Airport management and operations personnel provided them with an operations and maintenance facilities tour.
- 3) On March 15, 2011, the Transportation Security Administration performed their yearly inspection. No issues or concerns were reported.
- 4) March 22, 2010, Mr. Marino attended the FAA Electronic Notice to Airmen meeting at the Los Angeles International Airport.
- 5) On March 15 through 17, 2011, a film production company utilized different locations of the airport to film a CBS television show. The producer is an airport tenant.

- **Miscellaneous:**

On March 9, 2011, a Pitts S1 was landing on Runway 1-2, exited the right side of the runway, and flipped over. No injuries were reported.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff reported on Brackett Field Airport events:

- **Management and Maintenance:**

- 1) Continued mowing and keeping lights and signs clear of weeds. Utilized a mixture of roundup, oust, and crowbar for weed abatement.
- 2) A window was replaced in the airport's terminal building.
- 3) A contractor was hired to repair a damaged hangar at a cost of \$650. The cost of this repair will be billed to an outside party.

- **Projects:**

The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning project will be completed the first week of April. Multiple change orders have delayed completion.

- **Development and Activities:**

- 1) Commercial Tenant 10-8 Retrofit vacated his leasehold by moving his operation to a building in Ontario.
- 2) Aircraft operations continue to be up from last year.
- 3) The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department requested permission to install four new concrete helipads on their leasehold at their own cost. The County has approved this request.

- **Meetings and Events:**

The Brackett Airport Association meeting is scheduled the first Thursday of each month at the airport Pilot's Lounge.

The Wings of Freedom Tour is coming to Brackett Field Airport on April 2011.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on Compton/Woodley Airport events:

- **Management and Maintenance:**

- 1) A new wind sock was installed on the north side of the airport.
- 2) Airport staff continue their weed abatement efforts throughout the airport.
- 3) New plants and flowers were recently planted by the central airport access gate where upgrades to the landscaping are ongoing.
- 4) The north side Pilot's Lounge is now available for airport users.
- 5) The maintenance and replacement of taxiway and runway lights is ongoing.

- **Projects:**

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) fence was relocated to its original location, southeast of the building.

- **Development and Activities:**

Several parties have expressed interest in potentially leasing the vacant AC Flying Hangar facility.

- **Miscellaneous:**

Fire extinguisher recertification is scheduled for May 2011. Detailed information will be displayed throughout the airport and on the airport's newsletter.

Mr. Chris Brooks reported on El Monte Airport events:

- **Management and Maintenance:**

- 1) The carpets in the airport terminal lobby and Pilot's Lounge were recently cleaned.
- 2) Airport staff repaired several leaking hangar roofs, replaced several door gap seals on the north facing hangars, and repainted the fuel farm cab replacing all fuel filters.
- 3) The Airfield E-exit sign was replaced.
- 4) A damaged runway and identifier light were replaced.
- 5) The south wind sock was replaced.

- **Projects:**

A meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2011, with the City of El Monte to discuss the FAA Regulation Part 77, 7:1 Transitional Surfaces impacts on Rio Vista Park trees.

- **Development and Activities:**

- 1) The airport has a 10 percent vacancy rate.
- 2) The airport sold 10,678 gallons of Avgas and 3,265 gallons of Jet-A in February 2011.

- **Meetings and Events:**

- 1) The FAA Runway Safety Action Team visited the airport on March 17 and 18, 2011.
- 2) A Chinese delegation of members of the Civil Aviation Authority visited the airport on March 10, 2011.
- 3) On March 31, 2011, the County's Fire Department will host an aircraft rescue and fire-fighting drill.
- 4) On April 24, 2011, an Antique Custom and Hot Rod Display event will be held at the airport.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on General Wm. J. Fox Airfield events:

- Mini blinds were installed in the airport terminal building providing shade and better visibility to accommodate meeting presentations.
- Last month's strong winds of up to 70 miles per hour damaged a portion of the airport's firehouse roof and several hangars. Repairs are ongoing and scheduled to be completed in a week or two.
- The 14-year-old original leak sensor on one of the airport's underground fuel storage tanks was replaced.
- The same film production company that visited Whiteman Airport utilized the airport as part of the same film production. Airport management was pleased to work with this group of people, which had airport experience.
- Airport hangar inspections are scheduled for April 2011.
- Aircraft operations remain flat in relation to 2010, mainly due to the weather.

Mr. Scott Wardle shared with the Commission how hangar vacancies produce a big financial impact on American Airports Corporation (AAC) and the County. He presented a report on monthly vacancies by airport and informed the Commission that as of March 2011, AAC has lost \$60,000 in revenue from unrented hangars and tiedowns.

Mr. Wardle also informed the Commission that the AAC 5-year management contract extension commences on April 1, 2011. This will trigger the terms and conditions of the new agreement with the County.

C. County Contract Administrator's Report – Mr. Richard Smith

The Commission was provided with copies of the February 2011 expense and revenue report, and Mr. Smith offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Smith updated the Commission on the following subjects:

- Provided the Commission with a copy of a letter that Supervisor Don Knabe submitted to Mr. Mark McClardy of the FAA, in which he expressed his commitment to finding a viable resolution to preserving Catalina Island Airport. Vice Chairman Simmons suggested arranging a special meeting at Catalina Airport on July 2011.
- Elaborated on the U.S. House of Representatives H.R. 842: Valley-Wide Noise Relief Act of 2011. Commissioner Jerome Alexander recommended that the Commission write a letter to inform the County of Los Angeles' Board of Supervisors (Board) that the Commission is opposed to any airport curfews.
- Informed the Commission that the consulting company for the Empire Interchange/Interstate 5 Improvement Project has been in communication with the County to discuss the possibility of utilizing 250,000 cubic yards of dirt from the hill at Whiteman Airport. Additional updates will be provided at the next Commission meeting.
- Updated the Commission on the private development on Osborne Street near Whiteman Airport. He stated that County and City of Los Angeles attorneys are discussing the matter with the intention to modify the City's municipal building codes, with the intention of providing developers notice of their federal filing obligation.
- Spoke about the Chinese Civil Aviation Authority delegation that visited El Monte Airport on March 10, 2011. He stated that the delegation's mission is to develop a system of General Aviation airports in China.
- Shared with the Commission that on March 29, 2011, Vice Chairman Simmons and Mr. Smith received a presentation from URS Corporation regarding updates on the Compton/Woodley Airport Remediation Project. This project will continue until the soil vapor extraction wells are stabilized.

In addition, Mr. Smith updated the Commission on the following capital improvement projects:

- Preliminary field surveying at El Monte Airport is anticipated to start on April 2011 for the Airport Pavement Assessment Project.
- The Federal Communications Commission is reviewing the County's license application for the Automated Weather Observation Systems

(AWOS) and analyzing the frequency band that is required to send the data from the AWOS towers to the airport traffic control towers. Once this is resolved, a representative from the County's Information Technology Division will commence field testing frequencies.

- The Brackett Field Airport Slurry Seal Runway and South Taxiway Project is now complete. A second coat of paint was recently applied to the runway and taxiway markings.
- On February 15, 2011, the County obtained Board approval to establish the Brackett Field Airport Slurry Seal Runway and North Taxiway Project and authorization to apply for an FAA grant. This project is anticipated to begin in summer 2011.
- The third Technical Advisory Committee for the General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Master Plan Update was held on March 8, 2011, which focused on four alternatives that should serve as positive marketing tools for the City of Lancaster's economic development. Copies of the Master Plan Chapters 1 through 4 will be available on the Commission's website.
- The County obtained Board approval to establish the Whiteman Airport Slurry Seal Project and authorization to apply for an FAA grant. This project consists of slurry sealing, restriping, and marking of the northwest aircraft parking ramp.
- The County obtained Board approval to re-advertise the Whiteman Airport Aircraft Parking Ramp Project, and the project advertisement package is being prepared. It is anticipated that the project will be re-advertised in May 2011.
- The noise report section of the draft Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update was reviewed by the County, and comments were provided to the consultant. The air quality report section is near completion, and it will be reviewed by the County in the next few weeks.

D. General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Additional Items

No one reported additional items.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Jack Kenton expressed his disappointment with the relocation of the fence near the EAA building. He also stated that the Southern California Airspace Users Working Group (SCAUWG) has previously sent letters to the United States Congress asking to withdraw the request to change the Airport Noise and Capacity Act. In addition, he mentioned that SCAUWG believes that there will be negative impacts associated with the Long Beach Airport Class C Airspace proposal from the FAA.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

**Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 10 a.m.
Whiteman Airport
12653 Osborne Street
Pacoima, CA 91331-2192
(818) 896-5271**

Commissioner Jerome Alexander adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m. in memory of Messrs. Mark Bixby, Jeff Berger, Tom Dean, Bruce Krall, and Kenneth Cruz who perished in an aircraft crash at Long Beach on March 16, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Vice Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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